

THE ANTIOCH NEWS.



PER YEAR.

ANTIOCH, ILLINOIS THURSDAY MARCA 7, 1918

VOL. XXXI. NO. 27

FAMILY RIC TO JULY 19

Consumers to 12 cents
and Producers to 12 cents
\$3.10 by Copromé
FARMER GET 27 C. RAISE

Chicago's milk problem was settled on Friday under an agreement entered into between the food administration and the Milk Producers association. There will be no increase of price to the consumer. Twelve cents a quart to stand. The milk producers are to be paid \$3.10 for 100 pounds during March, against \$2.83 for the regional commission. The price to be paid the producer is to be adjusted on the basis of feed costs monthly until July 1, the date of expiration of the price fixing agreement entered into in November. The April price to be based on March feed costs, will be named about March 15.

The acceptance of the price of \$3.10 for 100 pounds was a compromise. The producers held out for \$3.22. In accepting the price they declared their intention of abiding by future monthly prices and of doing everything possible to increase milk production.

Saturday morning State Food Administrator Harry Wheeler and William Lamb, head of the dairy division, asked the distributors to agree to the compromise as the price added for producers must come out of their pockets. Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Lamb take the responsibility of naming the price.

"Stuck," he said, "I am for a fitting anniversary. On account of the regular time for the meeting of the board being this week it was decided to celebrate the birthday of our county at the time when the board was in regular session instead of on the exact date.

The time set was Tuesday afternoon and at that time about five hundred persons gathered in the Circuit court room to hear addresses by State Superintendent Francis Blair, Prof. J. J. Halsey of Lake Forest University and States Attorney Welch. An orchestra from Great Lakes furnished the music for the occasion.

Prominent men from all over the county were present and veterans of the civil war were also conspicuous in the gathering. The attorneys were present in a body and, occupied the jury seat. All county officers were present as well as all the high school teachers and many high school pupils.

Prof. Halsey had statistics with which he showed the progress made by Lake county, that is, the struggle it went through to become a Lake county. He traced how it passed through stages, where it had various county seats, from Detroit to unknown places, in which he stated that there was a demand for the withdrawal of the minimum price of \$15.50 for hogs and that he thought it would be "perfectly fair" to withdraw this minimum price, but the very suggestion that he could diminish the obligation of the food administration to maintain this price with the statement that such action would be "perfectly fair," has appalled farmers and tended still further to shake the faith in the good intentions of the food administration.

Mr. Cotton has since decided not to withdraw this minimum price, but the very suggestion that he could diminish the obligation of the food administration to maintain this price with the statement that such action would be "perfectly fair," has appalled farmers and tended still further to shake the faith in the good intentions of the food administration.

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ed Cross Junior Auxiliary 10th cent in membership

A 100% Red Cross for auxiliary has been organized at the Antioch Graded School. The school is 160 enrollment of the members in this and there are

This 100% paid the pupils, the the united effort Teacher association, the Antioch S. Boys Relief society and teachers. The drive for membership in the Lincoln's birthday and the Washington's birthday. During the time there were 60 paid members. It is necessary to secure work-pledge members.

And this the Antioch U. S. Boys Relief splendidly stepped into the and made possible such an organ. Ten dollars came from the Teachers association and fifteen from the Antioch U. S. Boy's society. The balance of \$2.50 raised by the youngsters.

Each organized as a unit and work for the different grades is out on Friday afternoon from 2:45 to 4:00 by the local Red Cross. Miss Willett's room is designated as the Red Cross room. Here the youngsters work from 3:30 to 9, at recess time and after school. Miss Willett's supervision work is voluntary. This courtesy and kindness of Mrs. Williams a sewing machine placed in this room for the auxiliary. The interest and team of the children is increasing work they are doing is educational value. They are doing that their country is and that they, each one, have a will to play in this great struggle.

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RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY ILLINOIS FARMERS

President Wilson is Notified that Faith in Food Administration by Farmers Is Seriously Shaken

Bloomington, Ill., Feb. 21, 1918.

To the Hon. Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States, Washington, D. C.

Members of the Illinois Farmers' Institute, representing more than two hundred thousand farmers in Illinois, at its twenty-third annual meeting held at Bloomington, Ill., adopted the following resolutions and respectfully ask your earnest consideration of same:

Whereas, The food situation is so serious as to threaten a national crisis; and

Whereas, Unless the government adopts at once a strong and unequivocal agricultural policy, nothing but a season much more favorable than normal can prevent a food shortage bordering on famine; therefore, be it

Resolved, That we call the attention of the President of the United States to the following facts:

1. The attitude of the food administration is tending to shake the confidence of farmers in its good faith, and is seriously affecting the morale of our agricultural population.

2. The food administrator of Illinois signed a written agreement to fix a price for milk, through a commission, which would give producing cost of production plus a reasonable profit. The commission appointed by the food administrator did not consider the cost of milk in fixing the price. It is a shame to the producers that the dairy industry of northern Illinois with its thousands of good dairy cows and its thousands of dairy men, is being ruined by the state food administrator has refused to overrule this action of the commission, thus repudiating his agreement to fix a price that would give the producers cost of production plus a reasonable profit. The national food administration has so far failed to overrule the action of the Illinois food administrator.

3. The national food administration last fall announced that it would do everything possible to maintain a minimum price of \$15.50 for this winter's crop of hogs and urged farmers as a patriotic duty to increase the meat supply by feeding hogs to heavier weights. The food administration announced that there was a crying need for fat. Yet, now that these heavy hogs are coming onto the market, the packers are discounting them heavily. The packers are under government control, and farmers can not help but question the action of the food administration in allowing them to take this advantage of the men who put surplus weight on his hogs at heavy expense.

4. About a week ago Joseph P. Cotton, chief of the meat division of the food administration, sent a letter to a number of hog men and others in which he stated that there was a demand for the withdrawal of the minimum price of \$15.50 for hogs and that he thought it would be "perfectly fair" to withdraw such minimum if he thought wise. Mr. Cotton has since decided not to withdraw this minimum price, but the very suggestion that he could diminish the obligation of the food administration to maintain this price with the statement that such action would be "perfectly fair," has appalled farmers and tended still further to shake the faith in the good intentions of the food administration.

5. Including mutton in the meatless day regulations has brought loss to a great number of sheep feeders and we understand that the government has bought little or no mutton for the army and navy, or for export.

6. The meatless days have so reduced the demand for prime beef that feeders of such beef have been forced to take heavy losses. The result of this is bound to be felt in greatly curtailed feeding operations next winter with a consequent meat shortage.

7. In a telegram addressed to this meeting, Mr. Cotton says, the price of corn is at a fictitious level, and adds, "I hope the price of corn will fall." Such statements do not add to the confidence of the farmer. Mr. Cotton evidently bases his conclusion on the greatly over-estimated corn report of the United States department of agriculture. The truth is that the greater part of our corn did not mature and that corn that will keep through the summer is so scarce that the problem of the summer's feed supply is a serious one. The price of good corn bids fair to be much higher before the new crop is harvested. Farmers did not make an excessive profit from their corn, since few of them had any corn of better grades to sell. On many farms the 1917 crop of corn was almost a total loss.

8. The most serious obstacle in the way of producing large crops this year is a lack of skilled labor. The classified draft rules provide a splendid means for raising armies with as little interference as possible with agriculture and the essential industries. When these regulations were adopted we were given to understand that they meant what they said and that they would be administered impartially. We do not ask for exemption from military service, but we do welcome this assurance that skilled farmers would not be taken from their vitally necessary work until such time as the need for men in the army is so great as to make such action imperative.

We now find that some of our district boards are not taking these regulations at their face value, but are placing the majority of single farmers of draft age in Class A. Many of these men are farm managers and the production of their farms will suffer materially from their absence.

We are not asking for any special favors, but we do believe that our close association with food production gives us a clear insight into the seriousness of this problem. We realize our full responsibility in the war and are willing to give our strength, our money and our lives, if necessary, to our country, but a discouraged agriculture can not supply food in the quantity needed to win the war.

Most serious of all is the loss of confidence in the good faith of the food administration and the exemption boards. Morale is as important in the army of food producers as among the fighting forces. Morale can not be maintained in the face of vacillating policies that keep food producers in a state of uncertainty. We take the liberty, therefore, to make the following recommendations and to ask that the President of the United States give them his immediate and careful consideration:

(a) That the war department issue immediate instructions to the district boards to review all agricultural claims for deferred classification and decide them in accordance with the plain intention of the draft classification rules.

(b) That the food administration issue immediately a plain and unequivocal statement of its policy toward agriculture; that it shows its good faith by fixing a milk price for the Chicago district in accordance with Mr. Wheeler's signed promise; that it give assurance that the minimum ratio of 13 to 1 for the 1918 crop of hogs will be maintained; and that meatless days be enforced with more consideration for their effect on future production.

We feel that the food administration is over-emphasizing the importance of food saving and overlooking the much greater importance of food production. No amount of saving can make up for a partial failure of the work of production.

We hereby re-affirm our loyalty to our government in this crisis and pledge the fullest measure of effort to food production during the period of the war. It is only because of the sincerity of our desire to make our efforts fully effective that we ask for the removal so far as possible of the obstacles in the way of increased production.

Respectfully submitted,
ILLINOIS FARMERS' INSTITUTE,
H. E. Young, Secretary.
Springfield, Illinois.

Antioch Basket Ball Team Defeated by Batavia at Elgin

The strong Batavia team defeated the local five 42-15 in the first game played at the Elgin tourney. Before the locals left here for the scene of action, they knew that they were up against a strong team, considered one of the favorites in this section.

The first quarter of the game looked favorable for Antioch when the score stood 10-10. They had succeeded in starting the scoring in the first few seconds of play, but they could not obtain a good lead.

Then Batavia threw in its strongest combination and our boys were unable to stop the rush. The game ended 42-15, and the locals were eliminated from further playing in the tourney.

The Batavia team also defeated the strong Waukegan five 38-34 in a close contest, which according to the Elgin Courier was one of the best games ever staged in that city.

Later reports have it that Elgin won this section's tourney.

County Board Votes to Amend the Red Cross Gift

When the county board of supervisors voted to give \$500 a month for four months to the Lake County Red Cross chapter, at its session last December, there arose later a question as to the legality of such action. The first payment of \$500 has been made but other payments have been withheld awaiting further action of the board.

The original action provided that the money be equally divided between Waukegan, North Chicago and Lake County Red Cross organizations to be used as the chapters saw fit. According to the amendment passed the remainder of the fund must be used for the purpose of supplying necessities to the families of needy Lake county soldiers. This, in the opinion of Attorney General Brundage, is legal. In his letter, the attorney general commended the patriotism of the supervisors. The amended resolution was passed unanimously.

Brownell vs. Village of Antioch on Trial at Waukegan

The case of Brownell against the village of Antioch, in which Russell Brownell, through his father is trying to collect damages to the extent of \$5,000 for the loss of his fingers, is now being tried in the Circuit court.

The boy lost his fingers, according to the charge made, in a traction engine, which was allowed to stand in a village street for a long time. It was charged that the village was negligent for permitting the engine to remain in the street for such a long time. The suit brought the village, rather than against the owner of the engine.

The case was called on Tuesday and up to the time we go to press has not been concluded.

People's Town Caucus
A caucus of the legal voters of the town of Antioch will be held on Saturday, March 16, 1918, at the Village hall in the Village of Antioch, between the hours of 1 p. m. and 4 p. m., for the purpose of nominating one candidate for each of the following offices:

One Town Clerk, one Assessor, one Commissioner of Highways, two Constables to fill vacancy, three Committeemen.

All voting in said caucus shall be by ballot containing the names of all candidates and the manner of conducting the caucus and all voting therein, shall be as near as may be in accordance with the Australian system of voting. The undersigned Chairman and Secretary shall act as chairman and secretary of said caucus and shall certify the names of the successful candidates as required by law. No ballot shall be counted unless it shall be endorsed thereon, the initials of one of the judges hereinafter named. Each person desiring to become a candidate in said caucus shall give his name to one of the undersigned Town Committee on or before Friday, March 15, 1918.

Geo. White,
Elmer Brook,
Town Committee.

Dated at Antioch, Ill., this 27th day of February, 1918.

New Soft Drink
A new soft drink is being made from alfalfa. Cut when young and tender, the alfalfa are thoroughly cleaned in warm water and dried by artificial heat. They are then reduced to powder by grinding and put into vacuum pans and boiled. The solid particles are removed by filtering and the liquid that remains is mixed with sugar syrup and bottled for shipment.—Fathander.

Respectfully submitted,
ILLINOIS FARMERS' INSTITUTE,
H. E. Young, Secretary.
Springfield, Illinois.

NEWS ITEMS OF INTERES

Our Exchanges Have Items of Different Ever Concerning News.

NEWS OF VARIOUS

The Bradley Knitting Co., with a net of \$7657.20 is the largest tax payer in Delavan. The Citizens bank \$1,327.36 is second.

By working over time each day output of binder twine at the price Waukegan is expected to reach 400,000 pounds during the current year.

Schley Bros., of Waukegan, have the Holstein bull Pabst King Pontiac, Led 129298 to Fred Pabst of Oconomowoc, for \$3,000. They bought the calf four years ago for \$450.

President Wilson has named a new draft board for Kenosha county which is composed of the following: Joseph E. Dalton, Silver Lake; Albert W. Foster, Salem; and Myron Hale, Pleasant Prairie.

The town of Merton in Waukegan county, in which is the village of North Lake with a population of 150, has given \$180,000 in the various war fund campaigns and has a Red Cross membership of 1,140.

A cow on the Andrew Rein farm near Stoughton, Wis., was killed by lightning last Friday evening. If cows are given a place in the Hall of Fame this one ought to be honored as the first bovine in Wisconsin to win the distinction of being killed by lightning in the dead of winter.

A four year old son of Fred Turner residing north of Hebron, some 200 miles from his mother, was killed by another part of the house and attached to pour it in the stove. An explosion resulted; the child was badly burned and the house set on fire. Neighbors put out the blaze and the mother saved the child's life by quick action.

If 100 farmers will pledge themselves to raise one half acre of sorghum, the Manley Hardware company of Harvard will erect a mill in that city. It has been some years since this industry has been carried on in McHenry county and it remains to be seen whether or not the farmers in the vicinity of Harvard take kindly to the plan.

At the dispersal sale of Guernsey at the farm of George W. Browne at Waukegan last week Rud K. Hynika of Lebanon, Pa., bought several of the cattle, among the number purchased being Marietta of Maple Hill for which he paid \$5,025. He also paid \$2,900 for Beauty Eagle Queen of Riverdale and \$2,000 for Broad Kippie Hope, besides buying a number of the cattle at less amounts.

Primary Election

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, the 12th day of March, A. D. 1918, at the Village hall, in the said Village of Antioch, a primary election will be held for the nomination of candidates for the following offices to-wit:

Three Trustees.
One Village Clerk.
One Village Treasurer.
One Police Magistrate.

The political party entitled to participate in said primary election is as follows:

The Peoples Party.
The polls of said election will be open from 6 o'clock in the forenoon and continue open until 6 o'clock in the afternoon.

Dated at the Village of Antioch, Lake county, Ill., this 28th day of February, A. D. 1918.

Harry A. Isaacs,
Village Clerk.

Pitying Not Consoling.
It is said that the blind are easily discouraged, and one should never talk to them about their misfortune. In Portugal, where the blind are more numerous, posters are placed on the walls of the workshops bearing this inscription: "Never pity the blind when talking to them." This advice has been followed in France. In many schools in France one reads signs as follows: "Pitying is not consoling."

"CONTRABAND"

By RANDALL PARRISH

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A Thrilling War
Story of the
North Atlantic

CHAPTER XXXI—Continued.

Leayord and I were the last, and we left the dinghy swamped behind us, dangling and crushed against the steel side of the schooner, upheld only by the strength of the rope. It was all the work of a feverish minute, in which thought was impossible because of the stress of action. But now, as I clung breathlessly to those lower mizzens, the seven of us jammed upon the little platform, the green surge of water below rushing against the wreck we had just left, the strange silence of this vessel which we had boarded struck me with full force. In heaven's name, what could it mean? It was broad daylight; if there was a man alive aboard, he could never have failed to see or hear us in this fierce struggle for life. Yet no one was visible; no sound of voice was heard; no face peered over the rail above the rail. It was like a ghost-schooner, and I felt no very heart of me chill as I stared at the blank faces of my huddled companions, and along the shiny sides, and the deserted rail.

"This is a rum go, sir," ventured Leayord soberly. "Ain't she got no crew?"

"I don't know what to make of it," confessed "but we'll soon find out." Up the lady, Leayord, Olson, come to me.

We footed the ropes, and swung up to the rail, clinging there long enough to gain a swift view of the deck beyond. It was as clean as a millionaire's yacht, and had the appearance of one, with brasswork glistening, and paint fresh and bright. Every rope seemed coiled in place; the sail gaskets firmly tied, the planks spotless; the canvas as white as though just out of the sail-loft. My eyes surveyed the whole fore and aft—the low forecastle, the cook's

stides, the only staterooms being aft. A bright-hued rug covered the floor, and there were leather divans under the ports. The table in the center was fully set for a meal, covered with a white cloth, and glistening bravely in abundance, partially eaten, and wineglasses half filled. I saw all these details; I recalled them afterwards, yet in that first instant of horror, the impression left upon me was merely of those silent, motionless figures sitting upright in their chairs. It was a growing some sight! A great, monstrous of a man-faced me, his white, ghastly face appearing above a shaggy, gray beard, his sightless, open eyes, staring full into mine. A wineglass had fallen from his opened fingers, and lay broken on the deck. Indeed, everyone had apparently died as by a stroke, retaining exactly the posture last assumed in life.

To the right of the broad-shouldered giant was a thin, young fellow, scarcely out of his teens, but with a hard, repulsive face, and of his left a dark-faced man almost a negro, grained horribly, as though death had stricken him even as he laughed. Nothing could be more awful to look upon than the gleam of his teeth, beneath the fantastic curl of his mustache. There were six altogether, five sitting upright in swivel chairs, screwed to the deck, or leaning forward with heads resting on the table. The sixth, gray-haired and partially bald, had fallen sideways, and lay in a shapeless heap on the rug. They had the look of seamen, and were roughly dressed, three of them plainly foreigners, one with rings in his ears. The big man alone possessed the appearance of leadership.

I saw all this in that one swift glance. Breath had not come sobbing back to me, when Leayord's hand crushed my arm and his voice rumbled in my ear:

"See, captain, they're dead; they're all dead!"

"Yes," I answered, choking over the words; "there is no doubt of that. Something terrible has occurred here. Call—call the other men."

I heard him stumble out through the companion door, and the roar of his voice as he shouted to those forward; I could distinguish the sound of their feet on the deck, but could not remove my gaze from that awful sight in the cabin. The eyes of that giant dead man, staring at me so fixedly across the table, held me as in a vise—there was something so ghastly, so terrible, about their expression, as to rob me of all sense, all courage. The men joined me, Liverpool entering in advance, and pushing past where I stood. I have no recollection of seeing the others, although I felt and heard their presence. But I saw him—marked his sudden stop, the quick blanching of his face, and the sharp oath which burst from his lips, the swift, incredulous look of surprise, of recognition, which leaped into his eyes. He was staring straight into the ghastly face of the giant opposite. I doubt if he even saw any of the others.

"Heart of the devil!" he shouted. "If it isn't Gaston de Lys! So you've got it at last, you old hound."

He leaped forward, circled the table with a single stride, hate, memory, whatever the impulse might be, conquering all fear, and gripped his hand hard on the dead man's shoulder. And then he stiffened, every muscle of his body stricken; I could see death strike him, his jaw set, his eyes fixed—an instant he stood rigid; then his whole form seemed to contract and he fell lifeless to the deck.

I sprang toward him, but Masters gripped me, and buried me back. "Innads off—all of you!" he screamed. "Wait! Don't lay a finger on any of them; you are dead men if you do."

"What do you mean? What is it?" "The most diabolical bit of devilry ever contrived," he answered. "These men have been killed by electricity; the current is still on. I heard the whirr of the dynamo as I came n't. Don't move until I find the switch and disconnect; for God's sake stand where you are."

Perhaps he was gone five minutes; I could never tell; I saw nothing but those dead men; heard nothing but the heavy breathing of my mates in the doorway. No one spoke; but once, it seemed to me, I caught the throbs of that deadly dynamo, yet even as I seemed to distinguish the faint sound, it ceased abruptly. Masters pushed in past me.

"Ay, that was the truth," he said, "but it's safe enough now. Lord; do you ever hear of such a d— cold-blooded crime. See here, men, the villain planned his job well—here are the wires along the deck, pressed into a seam, and connected to each swivel chair. See, the circuit is complete, and no one would ever suspect. All he had to do was stand back there in the stoward's pantry and press the switch. Those six men died before they could wink an eye."

"But the fellow who did it? What has become of him?" "Masters shook his head. "I don't know, sir; but there must have been one; there ain't none o'

these dead men could have turned the trick."

"Perhaps it was that cuss dangling over the side, captain," said White's voice, from back behind the others.

"What is that?" "There's a fellow got jammed in a small boat alongside, sir. I just happened to look over, and saw him hanging there."

We were glad enough to escape that cabin of horror, and I slid the companion door to, and bolted it, before following White across the deck to the starboard rail. Excited as I was, obsessed by this awful tragedy, my mind yet grasped every detail—the shining brasswork, the spotless decks, the white boats in their davits, the snowy canvas aloft. The very immaculateness of the vessel seemed to add to the horror, and it was a shock to even read the schooner's name, painted on a lifebuoy—Rose of Gaspe.

A glance below revealed the whole story of the accident. It was clear enough to be read instantly by a sailor's eyes. The man in his efforts to escape had chosen one of the smaller boats, but one staunch and well equipped. No doubt it had been secretly prepared in advance, for the lockers contained food, and a heater of fresh water was securely lashed to a front thwart. There was also a spar and sail aboard, safely secured, together with a pair of serviceable oars.

What had happened, as seemed clear to us, was this: a heavy brass-bound chest, of odd workmanship and dingy appearance, had been stowed away in the bows. It must have been placed there with rope and pulley, for no single pair of arms could ever have lifted it over the rail. Then the fellow had clambered in, eager to be off, no doubt, and undertaken to lower the boat, standing probably amidships, where he could manipulate both ropes. But the forward rope must have jammed in the pulley, and the heavy stern of the suspended boat could suddenly enough to send the chest sliding aft. Before he could check the fall, or save himself by leaping overboard, it had pinned his legs against the stern sheets; and there he dangled still, his face hurled in the green water alongside, his knees crushed helplessly beneath the weight of the chest—an inert dead body.

"The fellow got his, sir," said Leayord solemnly. "Likely enough killed by the very thing he was tryin' to get away with. What shall we do with the boat and what's in it, sir?"

"Unhangle that pulley slowly, and hoist up even with the rail," I answered. "We'll have a look at the man, and find out what's in the chest; it's an odd-looking affair."

I helped Leayord lift, and with White using his uninjured arm, we drew the dead man's body in over the rail. The two mates released his limbs from the grip of the chest, and we laid him out on the deck. He was an ill-looking fellow, deeply tanned, with a livid scar across one cheek, and an anchor tattooed on his forearm. Leayord drew a paper out of the inner pocket of his shirt, and passed it over to me. "It was a letter with no details of significance, and had been so soaked in salt water, as to be almost illegible. The only connecting words I could study out were: 'De Lys has all his men but a cook; try to get on! He'll never know you after these years.'"

"Does it tell you anything, sir?" asked Olson anxiously. "Not much; only this fellow sailed as cook, and got the job for a purpose. He had known De Lys years before."

"De Lys?" "Yes; that was the name of the big fellow in the cabin; he must have been at the head of the party; the one Liverpool knew as Gaston de Lys. Get that chest onto the deck; no doubt the secret is there."

CHAPTER XXXII.

A Secret of the Sea.

We were compelled to resort to rope and pulley, and then search through the dead man's clothes to discover the key. Even with that found, it required the sharp edge of a hatchet to force open the cover. As it lifted, the sight was greeted with cries of astonishment.

"Good Lord, sir, it's money, and a stack of it!"

"English and French coins!"

"Aye, and Spanish!"

White's voice broke in above the babble, the old harsh crack I remembered so well:

"Well, see here, lads," he shouted, "whose is all this gold; anyhow? Ain't it just naturally ours? It's sure no good to these yerd dead men, an' there wa'n't nuthin' else good aboard when we come. Then why ain't it ourn now to divide share an' share about?"

"We undoubtedly have a claim!" I answered; "for salvage; and if the heirs of the rightful owners are unable to prove themselves justly entitled to the gold, perhaps we might hold the entire amount."

"Pile!" snorted White, "what's the use of all that poppycock! These fellows likely enough stole the money, or else dug it up somewhere. It never belonged to them any more; it does to us. Nobody knows the stuff even ex-

cept us. Why should we go around tellin' about it? I'm fer dividin' it up square between the five o' us—no, by heavens, I'll count the girl for a full share—the six, and never sayin' nuthin' about it when we go ashore. Ain't that the best way, mates?"

"Do you agree to this, Mr. Leayord?" I asked suddenly.

He lifted his eyes to mine in bewilderment. "I don't just know, sir," he stammered. "It doesn't seem exactly the square thing—is it, sir?"

"No, it's not," I answered firmly, and I slammed down the cover, locked it, and put the key in my pocket. "Now look here, men, and you particularly, Jim White—this isn't our gold. I do not know who it belongs to, or how these dead men ever came into its possession. But there is a curse on the stuff, which has already cost the lives of eight men that we know of. No one has touched it but to die. I'll tell you fellows plainly just what I'm going to do. I'm going to sail this schooner straight into St. John's harbor, with those dead men locked in the cabin, and this chest of gold here unopened on the deck. It is going to be English courts which will decide the ownership of this chest and its contents—not Jim White. Are you with me, Leayord?"

"Aye, aye, sir!"

"And you, Olson?"

"I suppose that's best, sir," reluctantly. "I don't want any trouble."

"I thought not; now fall to, all of you, and shake the reefs out of those topsails. I'll take the wheel, and we'll point the bow toward port."

The morning of the second day the speeding Rose of Gaspe rounded the northern head, and swept like a fair, white bird into the beautiful harbor of St. John's. We tied up at Long Wharf, and, within an hour, I had told our story to the port captain, and officers of the marines had taken possession of the vessel. That very afternoon the five of us gave our testimony before the maritime court, and were permitted to go free. Before leaving the courtroom the judge spoke to me privately.

"This is indeed a strange case," said the judge, "and, I think, the truth will never be learned, yet it is evident that you and your crew had nothing to do with the death of these men, or the possession of this chest of money."

"May I ask, judge, if anything has been discovered tending to explain the voyage of the Rose of Gaspe?"

"Nothing satisfactory as yet. There were no papers of value found in the cabin—an excellent chart of the Labrador coast, a memorandum in French, so discolored as to be almost unreadable, accompanied by a rudely drawn map, and a list of the schooner's crew."

"What was the name of the cook?"

"He shipped as Gustavo Montalvo of St. Clair. There is no such man known in that village."

"And the leader, Gaston de Lys?"

"We had trace of him only for a few months, Mr. Hollis. Where he came from, and whether he went as thus far, unknown. Gaston de Lys appeared in Placentia some two months since, accompanied by one of the men who died with him in the schooner's cabin—the one dark-faced—like an Indian—and sought among the fishermen there for a certain type of boat. They were very particular, stating they wished to leave for a voyage of three months, representing themselves merely as travelers for pleasure who desired to cruise privately."

"And the amount contained in the chest?"

"Exceeded seven hundred thousand dollars."

"I rejoined Vera at the hotel, standing beside her in a window looking out upon the harbor. Below us was the white schooner in which we had ended our strange voyage."

"We are all free to go now, dear," I said. "The examination is all over."

"Have they found the owner of the money?"

"No; they have not even the slightest conception as to whom it originally belonged, or where it came from. The law compels them to hold it in trust for the present."

"For how long?"

"Two years, I think, then the greater proportion is given to those who recovered it—the state retaining a certain share."

"Her eyes met mine. "I wonder if you know where my share will go, if I ever receive it?" she asked softly.

"I think I do, and mind will be added to it—the mother and sister of Philip Boscom."

"Yes; and—and we may never know who these men were, or the story of their quest?"

"Most likely not; it will remain a secret of the sea. Where was Gaston de Lys? Where, and how did he leave this hidden treasure? From where did the Seven Seas did he gather together the men who went with him? To what strange coast did the peaceful Rose of Gaspe sail? What motives of hate, or cupidity, led to the murderous crime of Gustavo Montalvo? and how much of the truth did Liverpool know? had he lived, could he have lifted the veil?"

She was silent a long while, her hand clasped in mine; then she lifted her face, and smiled.

"It has been full of hardship, of sorrow, of Robert, I love the sea."

"And I, sweetheart," I answered earnestly, "for out of its mystery life my heart has come the one woman."

no knowledge where it came from?"

"No more than we guess; there is no guide. Beyond this Gaston de Lys learned of existence somewhere in Labrador, planned its recovery. The man who told him also knew what it was to seek."

In my judgment it was a treasure lost and hidden a hundred years ago, yet we can get no trace of such appearance of color in the words. We

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